(b) if so, the names of trusts / societies / institutions whose proposals are pending along with details of reasons in each case, for with-holding the approvals; and

(c) by when these proposals would be processed and approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Out of 26 proposals received from State of Kerala during August, 2001, 21 proposals have already been returned as incomplete. One proposal from Imam Razi Muslim Educational Trust, Palakkad, though incomplete, has been withheld from return to applicant on the direction of High Court of Kerala. Remaining 4 proposals from the following applicants have been sent to the Medical Council of India for evaluation:—

(1) Pushpagiri Medical Society, Tiruvalla

(2) Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Medical Mission, Kolenmcherry

(3) Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Kochi

(4) CSI South Kerala Medical Mission, Thiruvananthapuram

The formal permission to start the medical colleges by these applicants will depend upon fulfiling the qualifying criteria of Medical Council of India Regulations, 1999, availability of Infrastructure and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon.

Revised Scheme for Extra Mural Research in ISM&H

42. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a revised scheme for Extra Mural Research in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for focus of the scheme on life style related diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Government have launched a revised Scheme for Extra Mural Research in ISM & H. Under the revised scheme, the focus is on

assisting research projects and interventions which validate efficacy claims relating to Indian systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy. Life style related diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity are some of the priority areas identified under the revised scheme.

Disaster management plan to check outbreak of certain diseases

43. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any disaster management plan has been formulated to meet the immediate challenge of possible outbreak of diseases like small pox, brain fever etc. in the context of the military operations, arms build up and tension in the sub-continent following the terrorist attack on USA on 11th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether and to what extent and effective speed would it be possible to reach and nurse the different far-flung areas of the country; and

(d) the details of the regional or State level plans drawn up, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized by the Department of Health which was participated by Secretaries of Home and Health from various States and Union Territories. They have taken stock of the preparedness to face any situation including availability of drugs and all the states have been asked to strengthen their public health system to handle the situation effectively. In this context a detailed list of biological agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to all the States and Union Territories and Central Govt. Hospitals in order to take precautionary steps such as earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency cotingency, stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible, setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action and sensitize them on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

(c) and (d) Government has initiated the following actions: